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LIFE COMES TO A HALT IN BOMBAY

City Paralysed; Traffic Stops; Power Fails

FIERCE STORM CAUSES UNPRECEDENTED BREAKDOWN

Facing the most complete breakdown of communications and the most complete paralysation of its teeming life in recorded history, Bombay City will not easily forget November 22, 1948.

With a large number of pylons—so far unestimated—bringing power from Kassara and Khapoli to Bombay knocked out by a 78 mile per hour gale—the fastest recorded during the last 107 years since weather records have been kept—Bombay was without trams, trains, buses, electric lights and to a great extent telephone communications.

After the Poona Passenger reached Victoria Terminus at 4 A.M. on Monday no train left Bombay nor has any come in. At 5-46 A.M. exactly when power failed entirely, trains on the lines stopped where they were both on the local suburban and main lines.

Roofs blown off, trees felled in uncounted numbers all over the city streets, overhead wires downed, signboards and superstructures of every kind blown off their moorings and littering the streets, the city presented a scene of destruction, which had never been known in the worst storm, revolt or other calamity that this city has known

15—foot waves pounded the coastline as the waves, lashed to fury by high winds, swirled and dashed viciously against every boat and steamer in and around the harbour. The wreckage of a dozen boats dashed to pieces was to be seen just opposite the Port Trust and Customs Office. The biggest steamer whose sinking has so far been reported is the "Hashimi" of 450 tons which foundered off ihe K. L. M. shed, Princess Docks. A small launch, the "Thunderer" was also sunk off Ballard Pier. A country craft was sunk at Lakdi Bunder. The Sassoon Docks were crowded with every manner of naval craft which had come there to seek shelter from the angry seas. The crash was so great that one launch "Gajanan Prasad" sank and serveral were reported seriously damaged.

A guarled and ancient fisherman dressed in a faded yellow cap and pieces of ragged Kambal, stroked his greying beard and told a reporter of this paper that never in his memory had such ferocious winds broke loose on the the city. Seven fishing craft were caught moored in the Backbay basin and in a desperate attempt to save themselves, broke anchor and rode the waves. Two of them foundered and the men swam ashore, but the rest of the craft continued to ride the storm.

Tree falls and house collapses accounted for two men certainly known to be dead and about 50 men admitted to hospitals.

The B. E. S. T. bus services operated till closing time on Sunday although the blowing winds made it a risky job. But the tree-blockaded streets made resumption of service impossible. The Muncipality were trying to clear the road blocks in a desperate effort to start at least a skeleton bus service on Tuesday.

While the Government declared Monday a public holiday at noon the police and Home Guurds were alerted to stand by. The aid of the millitary was also called up to clear the roads as well as to patrol the city. The police have issued a stern warning that they will deal fimrly with any malefactors who might try to take advantage of the situation.

The city went without its evening papers, except for one which brought out a cyclestyled news sheet. With the prospects of resumption still uncertain, the city will be without its usual morning papers as well although heroic attempts are being made by all news purveyors to feed the news hungry city. Whole section of the sea wall near the Gateway of India was knocked down and the boulders washed up a distance of ten to fifteen feet. The Radio Club suffered extensive damage, 700 of its chairs being carried the entire length of Strand Road and the battered wreckage piling up along the sea wall at the north.

Aga Khan Enters Film Business

HEADS EUROPEAN TRUST ALONG WITH SON

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 20 (Reuter): A European Trust reported headed by the Aga Khan and his son, Prince Aly Khan has negotiated a contract with Eagle Films under which it will guarantee the studio two million dollars a year for five years in return for distribution rights in France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Spain, it was stated here today.

Entry of the Aga Khan into the film business was believed to have been arranged by Prince Aly Khan, and the deal reported to be the biggest between an American Company and foreign capital, was made between Eagle Lion's President. Mr. Arthur Krim and representatives of the Gestion trust of the principality of Lichtenstein.

Under the terms, Gamma Films of Lausanne, Switzerland, share in the distribution rights, and in addition to the dollar guarantees the Trust will advance an unspecified amount to produce two films a year in Europe under Eagle Lion and Gestion sponsorship.

The American Company has a distribution arrangement with Mr. J. Arthur rank the British Film magnate but an Eagle Lion spokesman said the new deal would not interfere with it.

Refugees To Launch 'No Tax' Campaign In Sind?

(From Our Correspondent.)

KARACHI, Nov. 19: "No taxation without representation" is the new cry lately raised by the refugees all over Sind.

With the exodus of Hindus, who formed majority of members in most of the 26 municipalities of the province, almost all these are today superseded for a period of three years and the work is carried on by Government appointed Administrators.

Muslim refugees, who have since taken the place of Hindus in all the big cities have, therefore, raised the above cry and made representations to the Government to restore the municipalities immediately to enable the representatives of the people to run their own local self-government institutions. They are also reported to have made it clear to the authorities that unless their demand is met within a reasonable time, they will be compelled to launch a province-wide campaign of no taxes to be paid to the Municipal Administrators.

MAHATMA GANDHI MEMORIAL AT RAJKOT

(From Our Correspondent)

RAJKOT, (By Mail): Sheth Phirozesha Dantri one of the fellow-students of Mahatma Gandhi and the latters brother Sjt. Luxmidas Gandhi in the Alfred High School at Rajkot, lately issued a moving appeal to the admirers of Mahatma Gandhi to set up the proposed Mahatma Gandhi Memorial at Rajkot preferably in the Alfred High School, where Mahatma Gandhi had received his secondary education during his father Kaba Gandhi's tenure of office as the Chief Minister of Rajkot.

Sheth Phirozesha gives some transcripts from life illustrative of Mahatma Gandhi's stripling years of early youth at school, conducted with an uncanny insight ineo child-psychology by the Head Master Mr. Dorabji Edulji Gimi, who was absolutely without a compeer in Kathiawar as an educator of youth and as a strict disciplinarian.

Sheth Phirozesha concludes his impassioned appeal with a confident hope that the organisers of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial at Rajkot will not fail in selecting the Alfred High School as a most fitting place for keeping Mahatma Gandhi's name and fame everlastingly fresh in the Rajkot public's mind.

MYSORE NEWS LETTER

English As National Language Of India

SIR C .V. RAMAN'S SUGGESTION

America Is Not Pro-Pakistan, Says Anup Singh

(From Our Correspondent)

BANGALORE, (By Air Mail).—A strong plea for making English, which was serving as an international language, the national language of India for the purpose of binding Indians together, was made by Sir C. V. Raman, India's first National Research Professor. Sir C. V. Raman, who was addressing recently the students of the local Maharani's College, pointed out that to deny the benefits of English would be nothing but putting a Chinese Wall between India and the rest of the world. English, he said, is an international language and particularly scientific knowledge is available to India through that medium. It is the language of science and culture whether Indians like it or not, he asserted.

Sir C. V. Raman, in addition to speaking his mind about the language problem in India, had something interesting to suggest to the women students. In the new set-up, he added, girls should develop a keen eye to appreciate beauty and art. India was noted for its craftsmanship, and they would do well to remember that old maxim: 'the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.'

U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDIA

"American Attitude Towards India" formed the subject of an informal talk to local Journalists' Association by Dr. Anup Singh, noted author, journalist and former Public Relations Officer in the Indian Embassy in Washington.

At the outset, Dr. Singh corrected the wrong impression created in this country that America was pro-Pakistan and said; "America only wants India to be united and strong among world powers in the interests of the world peace. America is consistent in her sympathy for and interest in India."

He then narrated some of the persistent British propaganda against India and the consequent interpretation in America of India being dubbed to be somewhat pro-Russian rather than pro-West in view of her declared neutrality.

Dr. Anup Singh pointed out that America understood India in terms of Mahatma Gandhi. The Mahatma meant to the Americans the synonym for India, although they could not always understood his mind or mysticism. They can understand Pandit Nehru, who is a product of the East and West, he added.

He suggested exchange of scholars, scientists, musicians, dancers and such other educational and cultural personalities, more than official modes of contact to enable "America to understand India better and ensure permanent goodwill."

Dr. Anup Singh thought it fit that Indians could well incorporate into their body-politic Americans' strong faith in the unity of the country, specially in periods of crisis, and secondly their incurable optimism against reverses.

Analysing America's stand towards China, Dr. Anup Singh said that till now America supported Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek, but their attitude might shortly change if Marshal Chiang persued his sterile policy. Perhaps, he forecast, America would like to help establishing a Coalition Government in China including the Communists, who are now fighting against the Nationalists.

The need for compulsory education in India for both the sexes upto the age of 15 as in America was stressed by Mrs. Boulter, a noted American traveller, author and crusador for India's freedom in America for over a decade. Mrs. Boulter speaking here at the conclusion of her 18 month's tour in this country and on the eve of her departure to America, paid a tribute to Indian womanhood. Donning the saree in Indian style, she pleaded for technical education for women in India.

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF COFFEE:

Consequent on the reported decision of the Indian Coffee Board, at its recent meeting here, to release only 500 tons of coffee during December, as against an estimated consumption of 1,500 tons per month in the country, there will be created a temporary acute shortage, which may have to be counter-acted by increased releases during January. Naturally, such wide variation in the quantity of releases as against consumption, will cause striking variations in the prices to an upward trend with the already existing high prices.

The chief reason given for this short release is an acute shortage of coffee in stocks. The latest coffee estimate for 1948-49 is placed at below 18,000 tons, although district reports convey the impression that the production of Arabica Coffee will be slightly above average and Robusta will be considerably below that of the current season. It is stated that the crop is short of the Indian home demand.

NEHRU JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

In common with the rest of India Mysore celebrated Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's 60th birthday. Speaking on the occasion to a largely attended meeting the State's Chief Minister, Mr. K. C. Reddy, described Pandit Nehru as the "incarnate of love". He added, "He is the first citizen of the world and represents the moral force that has bound Indians together. India without Nehru would be unthinkable."

ALL-INDIA MUSLIM COMPETITION AND CONFERENCE AT PRYAG SANGIT SAMITI

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Eleventh All-India Music Competition and Conference, held at the Samiti buildings to consider the representation of a vast number of competitors and many other responsible quarters on the question of relaxing the rules of the All-India Competition of Music to be held at Prayag Sangit Samiti, it was agreed that the competitors will have the option of singing any one of the Ragas mentioned for the group to which they belong, as the time at their disposal is not sufficient enough for them to be able to master all the Ragas of the group concerned.

ESTABLISHING NEGEV TRUCE LINES

U. N. Officials In Haifa Take Frist Steps

HAIFA, Nov. 20 (UPA)—Planes, trucks and jeeps stormed into the Negev today as the United Nations officials took the first step towards establishing the demarcaton line ordered ed by the United Nations.

Chief truce observer General Riley returned to his headquarters here tonight after conferring separately with Israeli and Egyptian authorities in Tel Aviv and Gaza. His aide, who returned with him by a special plane, said both parties had indicated that demarcation would be accomplished with the minimum of trouble.

REGISTRATION OF DENTISTS

The Government of Bombay has constituted under the provisions of the Dentists Act, 1948, a Registration Tribunal for the registration of dentists or dental surgeons. September 30, 1949, has been fixed as the last date for applying for registration to the Tribunal.

The Act provides for the registration of dentists or dental surgeons, dental hygienists and dental mechanics, the latter two categories being registered only in those Provinces where the Provincial Government desires to maintain registers for them. After the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of the Act, no person other than a registered dentists will be able to practice dentistry or indicate in any way that he is prepared so to practise in this Province.

Persons wishing to get themselves registered as dentists should apply to the Registration Tribunal, the office of which is located on the premises of the Bombay Medical Council, Swadeshi Mills Estate (Opposite Roxy Cinema), New Queens Road, Bombay 4.

Any particulars pertaining to the provisions of the Act may be obtained from the office of the Tribunal.

ADULT EDUCATION DRIVE

Separate Committees For Ahmedabad And Sholapur

With a view to properly conducting the literacy campaign in the cities having a large labour population, the Government of Bombay has appointed two separate Adult Education Committees in Ahmedabad and Sholapur for a period of three years, in the first instant.

The Committees will be independent of the Regional Adult Education Committees concerned and will have the powers necessary for organising Adult Education classes and training classes for teachers and workers.

Subject to the availability of funds, the Government will give the Committees grants-in-aid to the extent of 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure incurred on schemes and items approved by the Government.

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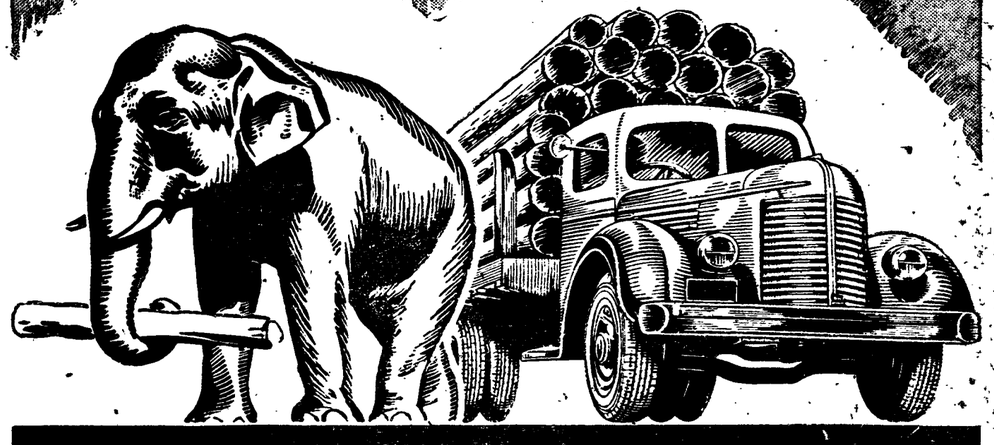
1898–1948



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